

**ABSTRACT**

A method of calculating online time of a DHCP user in a broadband access server includes the steps of: (a) setting an inner time interval for monitoring a data flow of the user in the broadband access server, an outer time interval for detecting an IDLE state outside the  
5 broadband access server and a flow threshold for counting the data flow of the user in the broadband access server, and the inner time interval being shorter than the outer time interval; (b) providing a fee calculation server in communication with the broadband access server for recording the amount of online time of the user and starting recording the online time of the user by the fee calculation service when receiving an instruction of the broadband access  
10 server after the user accesses the broadband access server and is authenticated successfully; (c) establishing in the broadband access server a circular link list having a number of elements to the user for recording the data flow of the user, wherein the element number of the circular link list is the number of times of the outer time interval to the inner time interval; and (d) repeatedly detecting the data flow of the user in the broadband access server at each inner  
15 time interval, and recording the detected data flow as a content of a head pointer of the circular link list in turn, until a difference between the newly detected data flow and the content recorded in the head pointer is not more than the flow threshold.